

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

April 8, 2008

Senate Bill (SB) 1060, which is now pending in the State Senate, proposes to create a new State-controlled agency to take over control and management of Exposition Park, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Sports Arena.

This Bill proposes a totally unwarranted and ill-conceived State encroachment into the local municipal affairs of this County and the City of Los Angeles, and an unconscionable interference with and abrogation of current and longstanding contractual relationships and rights of the County, City of Los Angeles, California Science Center, Coliseum Commission and the University of Southern California.

Moreover, the timing of this proposed State takeover is highly inappropriate and inopportune as it is being advanced at a critical time in the recently approved long-term agreement between the Coliseum Commission and the University of Southern California to assure substantial improvements to the Coliseum and secure USC's tenancy in the Coliseum for decades to come.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
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ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

The advancement of this Bill threatens to undermine the enormous and effective efforts of the County, City, California Science Center and State representatives and officials, as well as representatives of USC and the private civic community to accomplish this end.

Legal Counsel for the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission, including the County Counsel and City Attorney, have advised that SB 1060, if enacted, would be illegal in several significant respects. These include: unconstitutional violation of the separation of powers doctrine by encroachment on the municipal affairs of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, both of which are constitutionally authorized and established independent charter entities; unconstitutional abrogation of contractual rights and relationships of the City, County, California Science Center, and the independently created and non-tax supported Coliseum Commission, as well as the University of Southern California; and unconstitutional special legislation affecting the California Joint Exercise of Powers Act relating to only one entity, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission, among the hundreds of joint powers authorities which have been duly created and are operating under authority of that Act.

The present governance structure of the Coliseum Commission, consisting of equal County, City and State representation, has been in place for well over 50 years, and has recently been extended at least through the year 2054. This structure has preserved local control and protected the long-term interests of the citizens of this County in these facilities which are so important to the County's civic and cultural identity. The present Coliseum Commission is effectively and successfully managing these facilities to assure the vitality of the historic Coliseum and these facilities for the

21<sup>st</sup> Century, as evidenced by the recent long-term agreements with USC and the California Science Center and the continued hosting of a multitude of significant events at the facilities, such as the recent Dodgers game against the World Champion Boston Red Sox, setting a world baseball attendance record of 115,300, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dodgers' Los Angeles debut at the Coliseum, and the hugely successful Bruce Springsteen concerts in the Sports Arena.

SB 1060 threatens to destroy this valuable City, County and State partnership and replace it with an ill-timed and ill-conceived new governmental agency, and bureaucracy, controlled by the State.

**I, NOW THEREFORE MOVE THAT** this Board:

1. Go on record as vigorously opposing SB 1060;
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to advise our State legislative representatives and the Governor of such opposition and urge them to oppose and prevent enactment of this ill-advised Bill; and
3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to inform the Los Angeles City Council, Board of Directors of the California Science Center, and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission of this action.

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